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rings are a very prominent feature on all the trees that I have noticed and certainly deserve to be recorded.

EDWARD W. BERRY.

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton are in the Bahamas. They sailed from New York August 19, and expect to return some time before the end of the present month.

Dr. W. A. Murrill, who has been spending the summer in Virginia, has returned and taken up his work as assistant curator, in charge of the mycological department, at the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. Otto Kuntze, of San Remo, Italy, widely known on account of his studies of problems in botanical nomenclature, has been in the United States recently on his return from a trip around the world. He sailed from New York on Saturday, September 10.

Among the distinguished visitors upon whom the degree of doctor of science was conferred by Cambridge University, on the occasion of the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, were Adolf Engler, professor of botany in the University of Berlin, and Sir William Turner Thisleton-Dyer, F.R.S., director of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew.

Dr. N. L. Britton and Dr. J. N. Rose have taken up the study of the Cactaceae. They propose to gather large living collections both at New York and Washington, much as they have done with the Crassulaceae, and to continue their studies for a series of years, basing descriptions largely on living plants. Extensive field-work will be done, especially in Mexico, and the earnest coöperation of botanists travelling in the southwest is solicited. The National Museum will gladly furnish means for sending material to Washington.

According to the annual summary of doctorates conferred by American universities, published in *Science*, the number this year in botany is seventeen, while during the past six years the smallest

number has been eight, and the largest only twelve. Chemistry, as usual, heads the list, with about twice as many degrees as are granted in any other science ; this year botany and physics are a tie for the second place. Besides the seventeen degrees in botany we observe that several were taken in other subjects by persons who have done creditable botanical work.